

>Date: Fri, 26 May 2006 10:29:35 -0400
>To: Jaime.H.Rivera@state.de.us
>From: Alan Muller <amuller@dca.net>
>Subject: Need for Division of Public health positions on environmental
>cleanup initiatives
>Cc: Richard.Perkins@state.de.us, Gerald.Llewellyn@state.de.us,
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>
>May 26, 2005
>
>Dr. Jaime H. Rivera
>Director, Delaware Division of Public Health
>
>Dear Dr. Rivera:
>
>This note is a follow-up to our brief conversation in Legislative Hall
>several weeks ago and a recent phone conversation with Jerry
Llewellyn.
>
>As you know, the DNREC has two initiatives to require substantial
>emissions reductions from the Delaware City Refinery and from
>Delaware's coal and oil-burning power plants. Members of your staff
>are attending meetings of two DNREC "regulatory advisory"
>committees. (States surrounding Delaware have similar initiatives.)
>
>Emissions from these facilities include thousands of tons per year of
>pollutants that are not only harmful in themselves but are
>precursors to ozone and "PM 2.5." Delaware is in violation of the
>National Ambient Air Quality Standards for both of these pollutants
and
>the health impacts are not disputed.
>
>These emissions are associated with increases in morbidity and
>mortality among Delaware residents.
>
>Naturally, the industrial interests impacted by these initiatives are
>"pushing back" hard, seeking half-measures or no new controls at all.
>
>These polluters have the support of the "Delaware Economic Development
>Office." For example, Mr. Gary Smith of DEDO, in a recent
presentation
>to the "Multi-Pollutant Committee" argued against the regulatory
>initiative. In a subsequent conversation he asserted that the costs
of
>the potential regulation should be considered but the health and other
>benefits should NOT be considered.
>
>The polluters and their agents tend to argue that Delaware should not
>act at the state level because federal programs will take care of the
>problem. However, a close look indicates that under the federal
>programs emissions "trading" would allow Delaware facilities to
>purchase "allowances" to continue discharging rather than clean up
>their facilities. This means that while national or regional
emissions

>might go down, the local impacts of harmful emissions to Delaware
would
>continue. One Environmental Protection Agency modelling effort
>suggests that these emissions would actually increase because the
>Delaware plants would become relatively cheaper to operate and
>therefore would operate more hours per year. This means that strong
>action at the state level is essential.
>
>With the above in mind, we believe that you should speak out
forcefully
>in favor of aggressive emissions abatement requirements for these
>facilities. This seems to us to be part of the responsibility of your
>Division to protect the health of Delawareans. And, as a practical
>matter, your voice is needed to counteract the negative influence of
>other elements of state government (such as the DEDO) that act without
>knowledge and on behalf of special interests.
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>As the DNREC is in the process of developing proposed regulations,
>timely action is needed.
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>If this note raises any questions please feel contact us. Citations
to
>literature expanding on the points mentioned above are readily
available.
>
>Yours very truly,
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